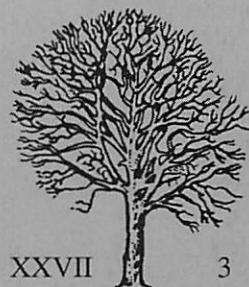


ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario



XXVII
Fall

3
2002





ACORN

Fall 2002 Volume XXVII, Number 3

ACORN is published three times yearly by
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

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SSN: 0704-0083

The financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture,
the Honourable David Tsubouchi, Minister, is gratefully acknowledged.

Cover: Alice King Sculthorpe and Bob Sculthorpe.
Photo: courtesy of the Sculthorpe family.

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Advertising Rates

Business Card:
ACO member \$25.00
non-member \$35.00
Full Page: \$200.00

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Printed on recycled paper by
Q-Print, Toronto, Ontario

The opinions expressed by our
writers and contributors do not
necessarily reflect those of the
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From the Editor



I give over my space to Mel Chapple of Port Hope, who spoke at A.K. Sculthorpe's funeral on November 11. This is what she said:

I was very honoured to be asked to contribute today. It's difficult to know where to start with so many wonderful memories to draw from.

For some reason, I had saved a poem that in re-reading seemed to capture my feelings about A.K. I would like to read it.

Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there

I do not sleep

I am a thousand winds that blow

I am the diamond glints on snow

I am the sunlight on ripened grain

I am the gentle autumn rain

When you awaken in the morning's hush

I am the quiet uplifting rush of birds

In circled flight

I am the soft stars that shine at night

Do not stand at my grave and cry

I am not there

I did not die

This is so much how I feel about A.K. She's with me and always will be – not only does she live on through her own family, but through her many friends and admirers.

She's certainly at Willow Beach and Peter's Woods. Her spirit is definitely in the buildings of our treasured town and, in fact, across our province; and in memories of the little things as well: the baskets of name tags, pots of zucchini soup, cleaning and cooking for fundraisers, decorating Penryn Park at Christmas, square dancing, barbeques – on and on.

But most of all something of A.K. lives on in all of us who were enriched by knowing her.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of

three esteemed ACO stalwarts: Edna Hudson, A.K. Sculthorpe, and Peter Smith.

Dan Schneider



President's Message

Some will know that any spare time I enjoy is on my semi-restored 35-year old sailboat. Others will argue that sitting on the boat and writing overdue articles, as I began doing with this one, is not the best use of a sailboat during a weekend (particularly when it is sitting on its cradle out of the water!). Yet the wind has died and Cobourg harbour, although under gray skies this Sunday evening, is as pleasant a place as any to write on topics of heritage and preservation. I should, of course, say Cobourg *Heritage* Harbour, as it is this very place that this town has decided will be its key distinguishing point among other communities in Ontario.

Ontario developed by marine access – we tend to forget that the roads came much later. Descriptions of boating traffic on the Great Lakes during the 1850s sound remarkably like the 401 during rush hour – except that, with average speeds of about six to eight miles per hour, the sailing traffic of that period was arguably much faster (!).

From my vantage point in the cockpit of my boat can be seen scaffolding around the clock tower on the magnificent Kivas Tully designed Victoria Hall and bits and pieces of the downtown, thankfully still relatively unaffected by over-building. The steeples here still dominate the skyline and, hopefully, will continue to do so.

The harbours around the province are surrounded by more than a few of our older structures, as are some of the waterways – as examples I can think of the buildings on the water near the Adolphustown Ferry, some of the buildings in Thorold at the top of the second Welland Canal (the canal has disappeared, however, under an expressway), the very early Imperial Lighthouses around

Georgian Bay, and the 1830s structures along the Rideau Canal.

Perhaps it is appropriate that these thoughts trigger in me an association with the recent passing of members of the ACO. Peter Smith of Cobourg drowned tragically off Cobourg a few weeks ago when the sailing vessel he was on, which left this very harbour, sank. His passing and the manner of it affected me, and many others locally, very deeply. Elsewhere, in Toronto, Edna Hudson passed on after a struggle with cancer – she had to abandon her assistance to our November fundraising dinner as a result of her illness. Many of us who knew her will miss her erudition and dry sense of humour. In Port Hope, Bill Riddell also passed on. Bill was directly involved in the on-going restoration of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church and his wife has been active in the ACO. All will be very much missed in the heritage community.

But of these losses, perhaps the most significant for the ACO is that of A.K. Sculthorpe, who embodied all of the best qualities of those who bless society with their unassuming caring and their belief in the preservation of our environment. I had known A.K. and her husband Bob for some 20 years and was, with so many others, constantly delighted and inspired by her energy and activism and support of the cause of protection of our heritage – both built and natural. The memorial service held in Port Hope on November 11 (a truly fitting date in many ways) was packed with friends and relatives whom she had touched in so many ways. She was one of a kind, and destined to be a person of legend. It was the greatest privilege to have known her.

With each passing of our friends and colleagues, the heritage of Ontario loses a bit more of its “corporate” memory – thus opening us to the risk of significant losses of our buildings as well. And what losses they are – fully 25% of our designated (not just historic) buildings have been lost in the past 10 years. Why? Because Ontario, almost unique among every other jurisdiction in the Western democracies, has a heritage act

that has no teeth. The activities of the recent provincial government have not helped by permitting virtually every development appeal to the OMB to succeed and thus preventing local communities from directing their destinies.

There are many significant heritage issues current around the Province, and it appears that members of the ACO are prominent in trying to solve them. Our organization is well-viewed by those knowledgeable about preservation activities, but not as prominent as we should be in relation to the general public. With newly renamed programs, such as PreservationWorks!, we will try to enhance this identity.

Still, even now, we must try to have a significant impact. There is an issue in one community, for instance, of a heritage theatre that wished to demolish its neighbour in order to expand. The neighbouring building was designated and one of the last intact nineteenth century storefronts in a community known for its preservation activities. No argument in my mind can justify removal of the building – the theatre could incorporate its activities in such a manner that the building could have been saved – but de-designation was recently granted by the local council. In Toronto, a secret deal has been apparently made by the city to redevelop Union Station, without design competition or public input. Rumours are rife as well about imminent changes to City Hall Square, the place (bilingual pun intended) which set Toronto on the road of aspiring to be a “World Class City.” Meanwhile, in Essex County, the fate of several churches hangs in the balance.

I must admit to having been run a bit ragged going across the Province to help local branches with these issues, and expect this to continue until my term expires. But the risks of change lie all around – even initiated by those who, while well intentioned, relax just a bit in trying to save our heritage from destruction because the circumstances suggest a demolition would serve an alternative short term purpose.

A few weeks ago, I took a “busman’s” holiday to Germany and, over two weeks, visited some 41 museums (and the birthplace of my ancestor Johannes who emigrated to Nova Scotia in 1751). The density of the place is remarkable – driving some 3500 kilometers enabled a complete tour of the country and visits to virtually every major city. The insistence on the restoration and reconstruction of heritage areas is remarkable – the need to re-connect with a past is known to generate new economic activity.

One of the most profound impacts, however, was the sight of virtually thousands of electricity generating windmills. Some may already know what these look like as one such windmill has been installed recently next to the Pickering Power Station, another near Goderich, with several under construction near the Bruce Power plant near Kincardine. Singly, they are an elegant solution to energy shortage. But in groups of 100 or more, they can take over the countryside. The area northwest of Hamburg, for instance, is full of these devices – none were present when I last visited some 20 years ago. Then, like at Cobourg, the steeples dominated the horizon. Now the steeples are virtually invisible with the skyline dominated by these spinning devices – visual pollution has supplanted other forms of pollution in a remarkable manner. Perhaps the ACO will have to become active in helping to provide input as to where and to what extent such machines may be appropriate here.

As I write, the most immediate issue for the ACO, however, was our fundraising dinner. Dianna Cook, our manager, did a remarkable job in its organization, and raised considerably more funds than in previous years – at first check in excess of \$10,000! Great news for the organization, which we, hopefully, can exceed next year. These funds are critical to the relevance and the survival of the ACO. We are also considering the idea of another type of informal low-cost get-together that could be put on by the various branches in summer – perhaps a barbecue that could rotate around the

province. If you have any thoughts on this notion, please pass them on to your branch executive so that they can bring the ideas to our council meetings.

It has just started a cold November rain. The harbour is pocked with droplets and the image on my laptop is beginning to run. I must run too – lest those who sometimes think I am all wet have proof of their accusations!

Christopher Borgal

It's That Time of Year Again

A professional symphony orchestra relies on many sources of income for its survival; revenue from ticket sales, donations, philanthropy, sponsorship, and grants comprise the major avenues. Ticket sales, subscription and single, while rarely providing even 50 per cent of the orchestra's revenue are, nevertheless, its strength. Ticket sales are incumbent on a faithful audience. Many symphony orchestras, until recently, have relied on their faithful, and aging, audiences largely by playing the same familiar tunes, without attention to the development of new, and younger, aficionados. It should be obvious that relying on an aging audience, dedicated as it is, guarantees a declining audience.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, like so many similar not-for-profit organizations, is playing the same tune and facing the same music. Membership is declining. Not from lack of dedication, but from lack of development. Now, it is that time of year again; time to renew memberships and, ideally, to build on the enduring foundation of this 70-year-old institution by adding new faces. The ACO currently has some 1,100 members province-wide. Our goal this year is a modest five per cent increase of 55 new members. I urge you, not only to renew your membership, but to encourage others to join as well.

The development of new membership

PreservationWorks!

That's the snappy new title for what was formerly "the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Advisory Board Community Service Program." The Advisory Board is now a team of ACO Preservation Consultants offering their services to the ACO "pro bono publico" on heritage conservation matters.

Administration fees have been restructured and are now as follows:

Not-for-Profit (<i>LACACs, Historical Societies, etc.</i>)	\$250.00
Individual Residence	\$500.00
Corporate (<i>municipality, corporation, etc.</i>)	\$750.00

Apart from the name change and fee structure, the service remains the same, with full details and application procedures on the ACO website. We want to expand our capability to respond to requests more quickly and efficiently. The way to accomplish this is to have a network of consultants spread more evenly across Ontario (rather than one heavily weighted to the south-east, as it is currently). If you are interested in joining the *PreservationWorks!* team, please contact the Co-ordinator, Alan Seymour, Architect, at 416-658-1737 or e-mail: Seymour@seymourarchitect.on.ca

rests too on the organization's program offerings, on its services, and on the nature and breadth of its profile. In June 2002, the ACO Executive agreed that the Advisory Board, a *service* that we offer, undergo a name change to make it appear more "user friendly," service oriented, and brand identifiable. The new name is *PreservationWorks!* and promotion of the new name, same service has begun. Currently, this 30-year-old service attracts, on average, 14 clients annually. During the month of August, with the assistance of a Ministry of Culture Summer Experience Program student, comprehensive media and contact lists were compiled. To expand and broaden the annual client base of *PreservationWorks!* and thereby increase revenues to the Conservancy, a sales and marketing strategy was created that went into effect late summer.

To all of you, many of whom have diligently worked on behalf of the ACO, thank you for your anticipated continued, or new, membership in 2002-2003.

Dianna Cook
ACO General Manager

Seventh Annual Fundraising Dinner A Big Success!

Musicians, a fashion show, a generously supplied and creatively displayed auction, donated wine, good food, and a festive crowd all combined to make this year's fundraising dinner an unprecedented success. Gross revenues are estimated to be approximately \$25,000 with corporate sponsorship and contributions constituting almost 25% of this.

A portion of the evening's revenue came from the sale of raffle tickets offering an all-expense paid weekend for two at the glorious Fairmont Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, travel by Via Rail, a tour of the Parliament Buildings' restoration project with ACO President and restoration architect Christopher Borgal, and an evening performance of the National Arts Centre Symphony Orchestra. Only 300 tickets were printed; however, there are some still available and you can

purchase yours by calling the office at 416-367-8075. The draw date for the raffle is December 15, 2002.

The next issue of ACORN will contain a more detailed article and photographs of Dinner 2002.

Dianna Cook

Alice King Sculthorpe, Conservationist

February 18, 1925 – November 6, 2002

Ontario has lost a key activist in the conservation of its historic buildings and cultural landscapes. After an eight-month illness, A.K. Sculthorpe passed away peacefully in hospital.

A.K., as she was fondly known by her friends and colleagues, was a native of Long Island. Growing up, she spent happy summers at Penryn Park, her family's lakeside estate in Port Hope.

In 1949, she moved permanently to Port Hope when she married Bob Sculthorpe, her devoted husband of 53 years. They raised four children at their Regency home, "Sorabrook," in Port Britain, just west of Port Hope. Sorabrook not only was the setting for nurturing four accomplished children, but it was also headquarters for a long list of campaigns A.K. spearheaded – specifically from the kitchen. Her nephew, the actor Albert Schultz, wonderfully described in his funeral eulogy this jumbled nerve centre – family meals crisscrossing with a stream of visitors, pets underfoot, a constantly ringing phone and a bulletin board so overloaded with notes that it seemed counterproductive.

A cartoon of A.K. that appeared in the *Port Hope Evening Guide* and has hung on the bulletin board for some time sums up what she has meant to Port Hope and area. It shows her as a caryatid supporting a classical building, a lengthy scroll of her projects unrolling from her hands.

If ever there was an Ontarian who managed to integrate cultural heritage into the life of her community, it was A.K. As the first chair and a longtime member of the Port Hope Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, she championed an ambitious program for architectural conservation there. A total of 160 individual properties in a town of 12,500 people have been designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Port Hope has also designated its exceptional main street as a heritage conservation district – the culmination of an 18-year campaign A.K. doggedly pursued. Port Hope landmarks she fought to save and restore include: the 1856 Grand Trunk Railway Station on the main line between Toronto and Montreal; the 1930 Capitol Theatre, a rare "atmospheric" movie house adapted to live theatre; and St. Mark's Church of 1822.

When once asked about the secret to effective public speaking, she recounted a meeting where she had hesitated to find the right words to challenge her audience in fighting for a particular cause. She was about to say, "Remember your heritage," when she remembered she was in Canada – a country without a revolutionary heritage – and changed her pitch.

A.K. brought American pluck to her lifework in Ontario. Her personality was probably inclined toward altruism, and at a young age she learned from her father the importance of community service. She fostered this ideal in her children

and 12 grandchildren and encouraged them in fundraising for the common good. She never shied from the unglamorous aspects of raising funds – making name tags, boiling potatoes, and enduring boring planning meetings.

At a time when most people retire, A.K. accepted the presidency of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario again in 1996 at a time when the organization was on the verge of financial collapse. She had already served as president in 1982 and 1983. With great vigour and despite

mobility problems, she led a direct-mail campaign, signing by hand 1,800 fundraising letters on her son's dining room table in Toronto, conscripting a team of helpers to prepare the personalized letters for mailing, and then signing charitable tax receipts and thank-you letters with personal postscripts for the donors. This first campaign,

started without a database of names and without enough cash to cover the campaign costs – a truly speculative effort – netted more than \$25,000 and saved the Conservancy.

For more than two years, she drove to the Conservancy's office in downtown Toronto twice weekly to attend to business and put the organization's affairs back in order. She assembled a crack volunteer team to assist her; her special gift was to bring others into her campaigns and value them for their contributions. While proud of her own background, she welcomed people of quite



A.K. with Chris Borgal on the occasion of A.K.'s being named Port Hope's Citizen of the Year in 2001

different traditions and circumstances – in her own family and among her friends and colleagues (who often became friends) – and so attracted an ever-widening circle of admirers. At her funeral attended by 400 mourners, her son David joked that “nonconforming traditionalist” would be the best label to attach to A.K.

A.K. was always generous with her time and money. The day she went to hospital in April suffering from kidney failure, she commissioned a history of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario for fundraising purposes.

Although heritage conservation was her principal volunteer activity, she easily made the connection between the conservation of historic architecture and nature conservation. She was a founding member of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists and the Port Hope Tree Advisory Committee. She dedicated a tract of forest in memory of her beloved brother, Peter. When the politics of heritage conservation would reach an overwhelming point, A.K. and Bob would recharge themselves and go bird watching. She could identify bird songs as well as architectural styles of the last 200 years.

She was honoured in her lifetime with several awards, receiving the Order of Ontario in 1999, and was named Port Hope's Citizen of the Year in 2001. A.K.'s death is a great loss to the heritage movement, and her life an inspiration to those who will continue her work.

Paul Dilse

Time Running Out for Three Churches in Lakeshore, Ontario

Two hundred-year old Catholic churches in Lakeshore (near Windsor) are threatened with demolition as the Diocese of London moves to replace them with a single church to be built outside the village of

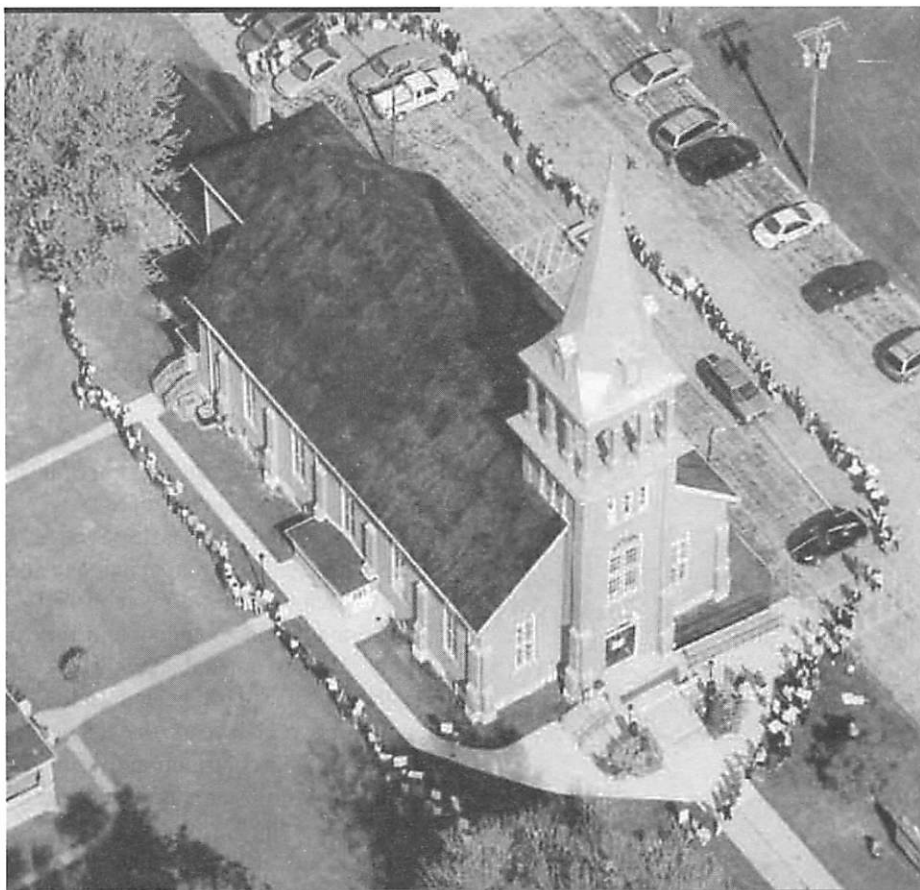


Photo from the air of the rally at Église St. Joachim on October 6

Comber. This issue was the subject of a recent cover story in ACORN (Fall 2001) and follow-up articles continue to appear in ACORN.

A demolition permit for the 120-year-old Eglise St. Joachim was issued by Lakeshore on October 1, 2002 and picked up by the Diocese of London on October 28. Artifacts, furnishings and stained glass windows have been removed from the church by the Diocese in preparation for demolition and “put into storage.”

A peaceful rally was held at Eglise St. Joachim on October 6 – close to 400 people attended. Support has been growing for the effort to save Eglise St. Joachim and Eglise l'Annonciation. Dyane Adam, the Commissioner of Official Languages, sent a letter in support of saving the churches, which was read out at the rally by her representative, Charles Barker. Joe Comartin, MP for Windsor-St. Clair, appeared at the

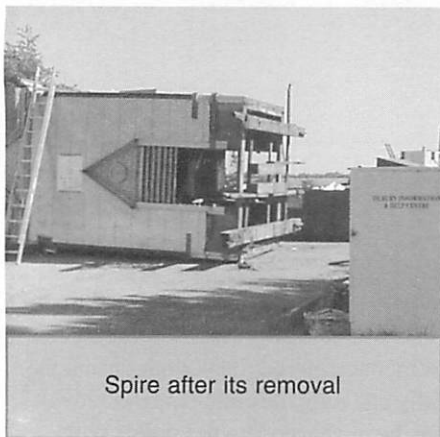
rally, supporting the effort and offering his assistance. Senator Eugene Whelan had expressed his support at an earlier rally.

Someone entered the church during the rally and rang the bell. One individual has been charged by the police with breaking and entering. Video footage shows this person on the steps of the church while the bell is ringing, so it would seem that the St-Joachim Quasimodo may still be on the loose!

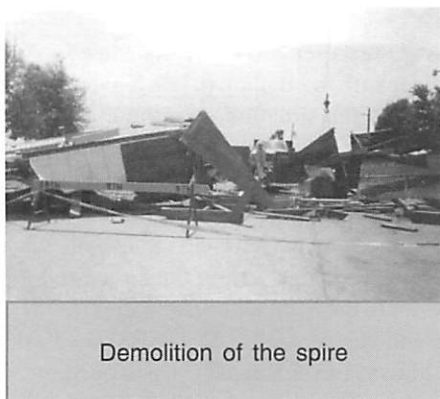
ACO representatives are scheduled to meet with the Bishop in late November to discuss the situation with these churches and other issues concerning heritage in the Diocese of London. Faced with the prospect of waking up one morning to find a wrecking ball going through a wall of their ancestral church, the Save Our Sanctuaries (SOS) committee (now SOS-EGLISES) hired Ottawa lawyer Ronald Caza to pursue



Removal of the spire
of the Église l'Annonciation



Spire after its removal



Demolition of the spire

legal action to prevent the destruction of a visible reminder of their French-Canadian heritage.

At an emergency hearing on November 1, Mr. Caza argued that: "When a municipality makes a determination on whether or not an institution that's essential to the Franco-Ontarian community should be designated as a historical site, it must take into consideration the impact on the community of not designating that property."

David Tremblay, Windsor Region Branch Board member and co-chair of SOS-EGLISES, confirmed that Eglise St. Joachim and Eglise l'Annonciation (also slated for demolition) were established by the Francophone population of Essex County. He also noted that, while French-Canadians have been in Essex County for over 300 years, the visible presence of their contribution to the development of this area is disappearing.

Superior Court Justice Johanne Morrisette agreed that Eglise St. Joachim held such historical significance that the SOS-EGLISES committee should be allowed to make its case for heritage designation on November 19 and, in granting a temporary injunction, suspended the town-issued demolition permit.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Caza decided to name the Municipality of Lakeshore in the injunction, not the Diocese of London, citing that the municipality failed in its duty and obligation to take into account the impact of its decision on the official language minority in the area.

Now, you ask, what can I do?

Letters can be sent to the Bishop at:

*Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro
Bishop of London
1070 Waterloo St.
London, ON N6A 3Y2
Fax: 519-433-0011*

Express your support in a discussion forum at

<http://www.lakeshoreontario.com/cgfiles/dcforum/>

Send a donation to help SOS-EGLISES with their mounting legal expenses. Cheques can be made out to ACO-Windsor Region Branch (who will issue an income tax receipt) and mailed to: SOS, Box 911, St. Joachim, ON N0R 1S0 Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Pat Malicki
November 8, 2002

Edna Hudson

October 28, 1936 – August 12, 2002

Edna Hudson, President of the Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy, died at home of cancer on August 12. Edna was involved extensively in community activities from her arrival in Canada in 1956 and had written and edited several books about buildings of interest in Toronto. She was a regular contributor to ACORN. The following tribute to Edna was provided by her close friend and collaborator Alec Keefer.

It is with deep sadness that I must inform you of the death of Edna Hudson on August 12. While she had been increasingly experiencing some health problems, all interrelated, none of us were prepared for her quick passing. Mathematician, engineer and business consultant, after early retirement she led the Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy for over a decade. Edna had a keen critical faculty and could be aggressive when the situation merited. She was intrepid, to the point of being quite fearless, when she encountered something unjust or dishonest.

One of her greatest achievements with TRAC must surely be the substantial improvements she realized in the quality of our publications. Edna and I were about half way through the primary research phase of our next effort, papers dealing with the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital at Mimco. I shall persist and we will complete the project for her. You can help us by donating to TRAC in Edna's memory.

Edna is survived by her husband Bill, her daughters Roz and Mattie and four grandchildren. Our profound sympathy goes out to all of them.



Photo courtesy
of the Hudson family

I said good-bye to my best friend by reciting something that gave us great pleasure - Yum Yum's song in the Mikado when the flighty school girl realizes that she is about to become the Empress of Japan.

*The sun, whose rays
Are all ablaze
With ever living glory,
Does not deny
His majesty –
He scorns to tell a story!*

*He doesn't exclaim:
"I blush for shame
So kindly be indulgent."
But, fierce and bold.
In fiery gold.
He glories all effulgent!*

*I mean to rule the earth
As he the sky –
We really know our worth,
The sun and I!*

*Observe her flame,
That placid dame.
The moon's Celestial Highness;
There's not a trace
Upon her face*

Of diffidence or shyness:

*She borrows light
That, in the night,
Mankind may all acclaim her.
And, truth to tell,
She lights up well.
So I, for one, don't blame her!*

*Ah, pray make no mistake,
We are not shy:
We're very wide awake,
The moon and I!*

Alec Keefer

Toronto Plan: A Glimpse of Toronto's History Opportunities for Commemoration of Lost Historic Sites

A review by Edna Hudson

Editor's Note: This article, the last Edna wrote for ACORN, was intended for the Summer issue, but was not published because of space limitations. I am pleased to be able to print it now in her memory – DS.

This volume, two and a half centimetres thick and spiral bound, is published by the City of Toronto, but the entries were prepared for the City Planning Division by the Toronto Historical Association, Maps Project and Partners. Essentially, an umbrella heritage organization, comprised entirely of volunteers, produced information to which the city now holds copyright. This is a new way of producing planning information, and an impressive approach at first blush, at least from the volunteer perspective. Possibly the consultants who would otherwise have been hired are happy that they were not burdened with the amount of detailed work required for a publication on this topic.

What is this publication like?
The lost sites selected consist of 32

aboriginal sites and sites in twelve other categories, some 250 in all. It is with disappointment that one finds that the 250 historical descriptions are not signed. This follows a modern drift to loss of authorial power, the smudging over of differences in understanding between people, and differences in style. The end product has an amorphous, banal, characterless quality that is assumed to be universally acceptable. That may not be a fault in a planning document of short shelf life. It is a disappointment I expect to those contributors who were proud of their work and had hoped it would endure.

No consistent use is made of already published works, such as William Dendy's *Lost Toronto* (1993 edition), John Ross Robertson's *Landmarks of Toronto* (1894-1914, six volumes), Henry Scadding's *Toronto of Old* (1873), nor G.P. Ure's *Handbook of Toronto* (Toronto, 1858). All these are eclectic selections to be sure, not without errors, but they do provide a possible basis for selection of sites.

The selection process actually used is described in the introduction as "an information strategy [developed] in partnership with the heritage community to provide public information." The heritage community in this city includes people of acknowledged expertise, for example, the West Toronto Junction Historical Society (WTJHS). Their newsletter is renowned for thorough research and accuracy of findings on the buildings in their area.

Members of this society studied the stockyards site exhaustively in source documents, wrote up their findings, and mounted a special exhibit displayed in the city in 1999. Yet the WTJHS was not asked to select sites for inclusion, nor to write the item on the stockyards. When the proofs of this document were delivered to them, a courtesy expected since they are named partners in the Toronto Historical Association, corrective advice was assembled, sent to the THA, and ignored. The account as printed is described by one WTJHS member as "pure fiction."

As a member of the Architectural Conservancy, I have advocacy experience mostly with public and industrial buildings, as well as some residential buildings. Since Chorley Park, the site of the former Lieutenant Governor's residence falls into these categories, I read that entry carefully. It is a simple précis of William Dendy's article in *Lost Toronto*; there is no additional information. The précis has quite lost the fire and interest of Dendy's work though, partly by muddling the architectural information, but mostly by omitting discussion of the savage political climate that led to the closing of the mansion in 1937. The reason given for selecting the site is only that: "This was a beautiful house." If one's ability to do real research and thinking is so low, it were better to get permission to reprint some of Dendy's writing.

Then I turned to Bellevue, the George Taylor Dennison House, which was built in the wilds of Park Lot 17 in 1815. The house was demolished in 1890, and new row houses squeezed across its footprint at what is now Bellevue Avenue and Dennison Square. The attraction of the house itself is not given as a significant item to commemorate, only the story of the Dennison family. While this is understandable in other contexts, family history alone is not really enough; it omits broader considerations that are also important.

If this is only a planning document, as claimed, the complete lack of photo-

graphs and poorly notated maps might be overlooked as the result of hasty production and standard economies. The unsigned entries are typical of consultants' reports. The responsibility for the accuracy of the information remains with the firm, not with any individual.

But if this is to be a work of reference, distributed to libraries and cited as a standard reference not only by city administrators but researchers as well, there are some severe deficiencies.

First, the sites are surely of varying interest, and it is extraordinarily lazy in layout to have a strict allocation of one page per site. Suppose the *Dictionary of National Biography* were to follow this scheme?

And unsigned entries? The DNB would lose all credibility as a reference work, for these features are expected by the community of scholars and researchers who use it.

Second, the question of the accuracy of the information in this report is a troubling one. The city's Planning Department holds the copyright, but the Toronto Historical Association, and by derivation the volunteers in most of the heritage groups in the city, were given complete responsibility for: the selection of sites; selection of volunteers to do the research work and write; and the accuracy of information given. It is a pity that more serious attention was not given to these matters.

Lastly, evidence, in primary materials, should be cited for statements made. It is unsettling to realize that there are very few primary references in this document.

Conclusions

This is a new venture, for the city used a volunteer group as they use consultants, and there was remuneration. The document requested was produced. We must now consider whether it was a worthwhile venture, one that we would recommend other municipalities and their volunteer groups emulate.

Points in favour:

- volunteer groups gain in public profile
- volunteer groups are financially rewarded, in this case particularly gratifying because the city's need could be met using existing groups
- the city gains a demonstration of involvement by citizens for their mutual advantage

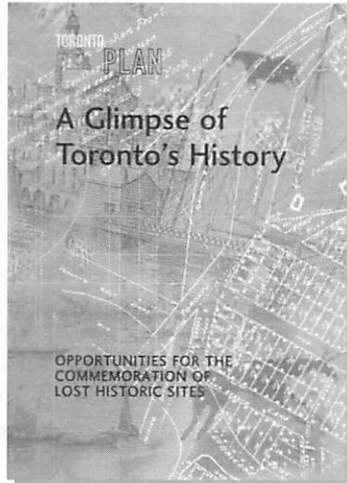
Points against:

- careless management of the project may damage the volunteer groups' reputation
- the project suggested may not be well aligned with the aims of the volunteer group
- volunteer groups are set up as charities, and cannot seek work in a competitive environment
- the project results may be misleading and disappointing to a group's members

So, we recommend caution. Be clear on your methods of work and standards; keep in good communication with other volunteers involved in the project; be careful that the scope of the project is defined within the limits of what can be achieved. Proceed, but carefully.

The document under review is a planning document and should not be confused with a reference work. If it is a failure on grounds of accuracy and organization, it is an interesting failure.

Edna Hudson



****ACORN Deadline****

Summer Issue - Monday, February 1, 2003

Contributors - please mark your calendars now!

The Colonial Perspective

Editor's Note: This paper was written for, and delivered at, the Celebrating Conservation Seminar at the King's Manor in York, England. This event, celebrating thirty years of the conservation program at York, took place on September 13-14, 2002. The proceedings were published by the Centre for Conservation, Department of Archaeology, University of York, in a book called Celebrating Conservation. This article appears in the first section, entitled "World Perspectives."

In September 1997, after several years of working and studying in Europe, I returned home. Home, as I then perceived it to be, was Canada, Toronto to be specific, and I chose to return there partly because I felt I had something to contribute. So I left the subtle charms of Walmgate, and of the King's Manor, and moved back to Huron Street, where I had lived when a student at the University of Toronto some fifteen years earlier. There, I became a resident of the Epitome Apartments.

To the European mind, Toronto is a new city. Some two hundred years ago, there wasn't much here, not in urban terms, that is. The city was founded in 1793 in a rather special setting. The actual founding place was Fort York, set at the western end of a large, natural harbour. The original town, York, was laid out in ten blocks towards the eastern end of that harbour (figure 1). Prior to 1793, certainly there were inhabitants, but indigenous rather than European. Huron Street, in fact, takes its name from one of the tribes native to the area.

Two centuries later, the City of Toronto has a population of about 2.1 million, this within a region at the end of the lake with more than five million inhabitants, five million and counting fast. The city, faced with general economic woe, has decided that another million people must move here, and then the place will run like the

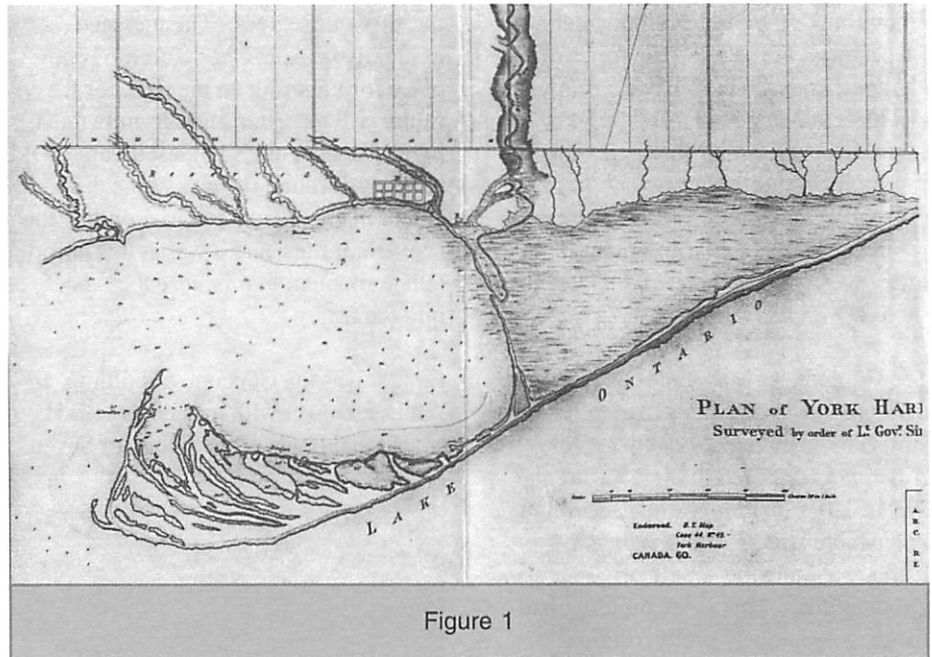


Figure 1

proverbial Swiss watch. A mere two million, and all is dysfunctional, three million, and paradise will be regained. This, at least, is the so-called conventional thinking.

At the turn of the last century, Toronto had a population of about three hundred thousand, and this in the midst of a tremendous economic boom. The primary building material (aside from wood) was brick, with foundations typically of local blue shale – the same stone as used to make the brick. Buildings were Victorian, often with classical elements: stylistically European, but with distinctly North American, perhaps even Canadian, characteristics.

So five years ago, I returned to Toronto to work on heritage buildings (as we call them here). And I returned also with the idea of doing a certain amount of advocacy, or voluntary work, pitching in gratis to try to improve the circumstances of the citizens, both in terms of the architectural and the general environments.

Now to the European mind, and sometimes even to those from North America, the idea of architectural conservation in Canada is rather amusing. This is, after all, the New World. I have become accustomed to the thinly veiled amusement when I say that, here, I work with

old, even historic, buildings. The response is predictable: "And how old are your oldest buildings?"

I reply with practiced patience, and perhaps just the slightest hint of reproach. Age in this sense indicates rarity. I work with buildings which are of a vanished world, a world which is dead, fragile remnants of a world inscrutable to us. These aspects of rarity are not quantifiable. A four-hundred-year-old structure is not inherently four times as valuable as a one-hundred-year-old structure, in fact the converse might be true. To view value only as a function of age is understandable, but it is also naïve, and this naïveté is as common to Canadians as it is to foreigners.

A city which had 300,000 inhabitants in 1900, which now has 2.1 million, and which aspires to reach quickly 3.1 million (and more?) has, needless to say, some extraordinary "development" pressures. And those pressures manifest themselves particularly in the historic downtown core. Which brings us back to Fort York. A picture of downtown Toronto taken from the fort illustrates the dichotomy (figure 2).

Toronto is an unpredictable place, this as much to the citizens as to anyone else. One of my first projects upon returning was the apparently mundane job of

repointing of the Stone Gunpowder Magazine at Fort York. The fort, once a high place next to the harbour, is now a low place far-removed from the lake. It is a far cry from Edinburgh Castle or the Acropolis, but this historic site has gradually risen in my esteem to the point where it has assumed a comparable importance; and quite rightly so, for this is our acropolis.

The Gunpowder Magazine (on the right in figure 2) was rebuilt in 1814, after the British blew up the old one when the Americans captured the fort during the War of 1812, an inopportune act which killed more Americans than died in the battle, including the American General, Zebulon Pike. This stone building had the most fabulously pretty, original mortar, filled with fine and very friable pinnings, or garroting, and my job was, ultimately, to rip them all out. In an inversion of the usual significance, the mortar was probably more valuable than the stones, and removing it all was a painful process, but I persevered. As the scope of work shifted to include more and more replacement the contractor was sympathetic: there were no extra charges. To my repeated enquires he replied "If I want more money, I will let you know," and although the project took an eternity to complete, it came in on budget. The affable contractor was, perhaps surprisingly, a Chinese Canadian.

Some two years later, I started to become actively involved in voluntary heritage work, and I joined the Board of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, a not-for-profit conservation organization founded in 1933. I unfortunately chose to do this just at a time that the City of Toronto was less interested in old buildings than ever before. Those who concerned themselves with the esoterica of integrity, authenticity and appropriateness were branded Heritage Weenies, people perceived as sentimental and inarticulate ninnies who don't live in the real world and who can't accept change. In a modern city looking for places to accommodate a million newcomers, branding the naysayers as deficient paved the way to razing all those old, dirty, useless places that might stand in

the way of progress. The message gradually became clear: Toronto is no place for lingering on the past, for the future will be better, and certainly much bigger, than in one's wildest dreams. Old buildings around the city, some designated, many not, started to drop like the proverbial flies, and it was at this unfortunate moment that I chose to wander into the fray.

First, it was the Concourse Building, an Art Deco tower with mosaics by J.E.H. MacDonald, one of the Group of Seven.

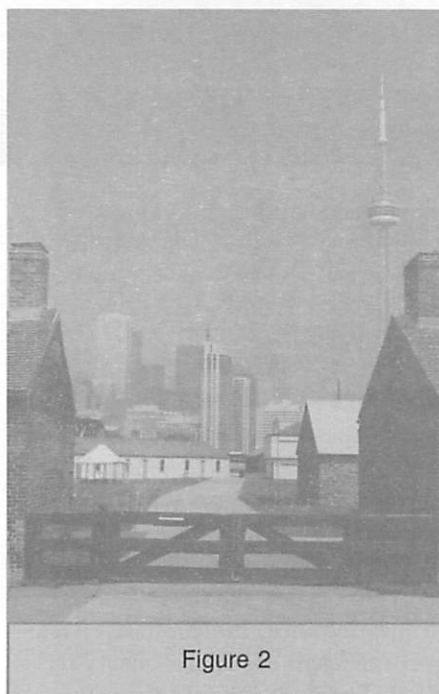


Figure 2

The result? A stretched and reconstructed façade stuck on the face of a new, forty-plus-storey glass tower. Then it was the battle to oppose the cluster of new, thirty-five-storey glass towers to be built south of Fort York, on the former site of the harbour mouth. The result? Failure again. Next was the battle to have the intact, early twentieth-century machinery of the Don Valley Brickworks be designated, and thus protected. And the result? Failure. Concurrently, the manager of a gallery within the Art Deco Stock Exchange building, already straddled to the point of invisibility by huge towers, felt it necessary to turn the three small, ground-floor windows – typical of an old Stock Exchange – into a full-width picture window. Again the

heritage community was outraged, and again the result was failure. Then the offices of Heritage Toronto, within a painstakingly restored, Beaux Arts bank, were deemed surplus to city requirements and were quietly put on the market. The newly named Heritage Preservation Services moved on to their current location, sharing floor space with the City Councillors, a location some might argue is not entirely free from the political pressures associated with the development industry.

Within that litany of failures, one protracted battle continues, the battle of Spadina Avenue, and in this instance a different strategy seems to be evolving, one which places little faith in the current, pusillanimous legislation. In Ontario, the greatest protection afforded to a designated building is a 180-day delay in the issuing of a demolition permit. We have neither carrots nor sticks, and with scant political or bureaucratic will, there remains only one reasonable solution, and that is persuasion. This seems the best, indeed the only, course of action; but whom, and how, are we to persuade?

Some eighteen months ago I received a letter at my apartment, from the City of Toronto, addressed to a previous inhabitant. Seeing the city logo, and being ever curious of city matters, I opened it. The letter announced a pre-hearing on the matter of re-zoning for increased density on Spadina. The hearings were to be held at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), the *de facto* planning authority for the province of Ontario, a quasi-judicial body composed of judges appointed by the ruling political party, a party very keen on growth.

Spadina Avenue runs north-south only one street removed from Huron Street, and this street is one of the reasons I chose to live here, and perhaps even to return to Toronto. It's a very wide street, recently equipped with an LRT running up the middle, and it happens to have one of the most wonderful, late-Victorian streetscapes in the city. Approval of the application for hugely increased density and height had one simple implication:

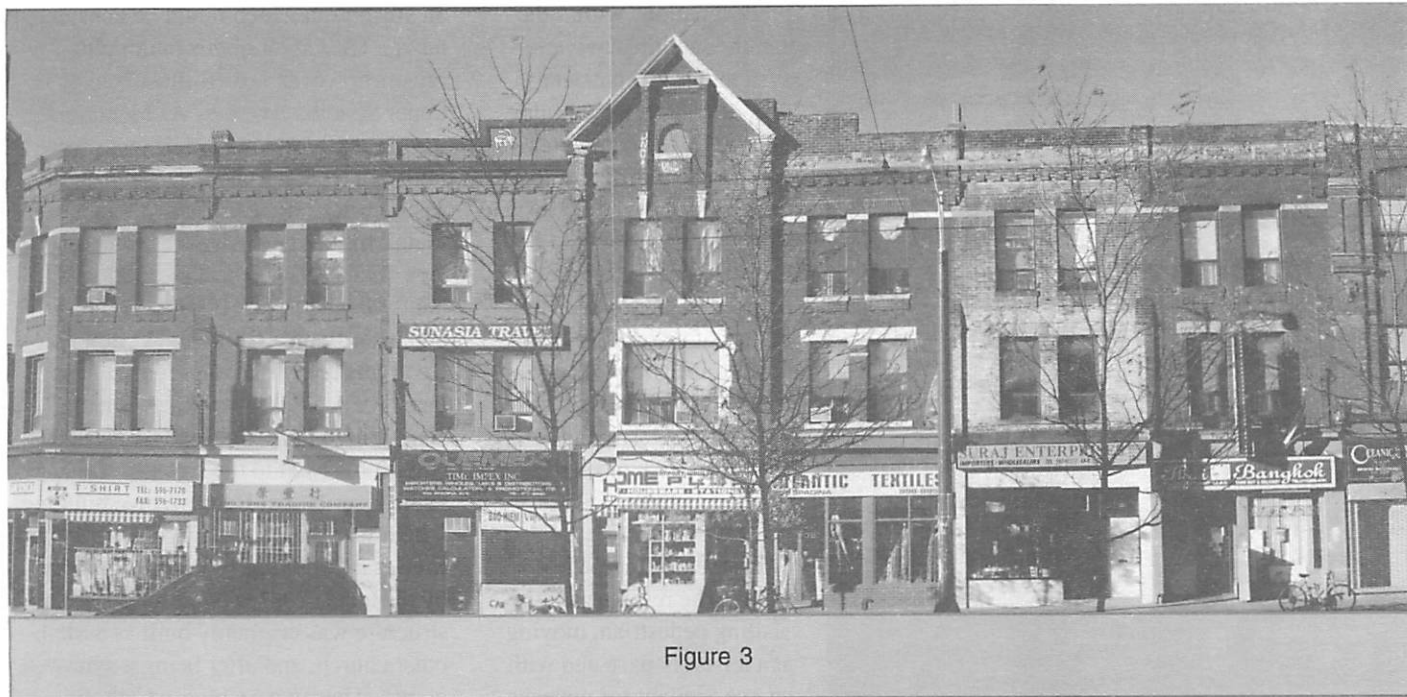


Figure 3

the ultimate destruction of all which I felt was most fabulous about Spadina, a street which afforded me endless delight including, in particular, the unusual little gable which terminates Cecil Street, the gable which I see so clearly from my balcony (figure 3).

I went to the pre-hearing and was the lone potential dissenter in a room buzzing at the prospect of increased property values, and so I went home and made a few calls. I asked around and no-one I called knew anything of the pre-hearing, nor of the proposed density and height increase. Signed affidavits were later submitted testifying that hundreds of notifications had been delivered, yet no one I spoke to could recall receiving one. Not trusting the bureaucracy to represent our cause, a handful of us banded together and started to raise public awareness of the issue. I did this under the aegis of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

It was, as usual, a rear-guard action since none of us had the time to do what was really necessary. I volunteered to write an inventory, but couldn't get around to it: until an intense first day of holidays, in London, using the computer of a former King's Manor classmate. The inventory was e-mailed to a friend in Toronto, who formatted it to take the

photographs, which were later couriered from a hotel in Leipzig. And while I basically went on to enjoy the rest of holiday, others worked tirelessly networking, collecting signatures and preparing panels which studied densities elsewhere in Toronto on streetcar and subway lines. Various expert witnesses were enlisted at short notice, and these prepared testimonies arguing the historic and economic value of the buildings on the street. The undertaking was heroic.

Several months later, the judgment came from the OMB. Despite our combined efforts, this was yet another failure. Only a fraction of the decision offered potential solace: "However, the Board has heard compelling evidence from many of the residents who urged us, based on the buildings' façades, form and historic pedigree, to allow some room for preservation." The subsequent paragraph was interesting: "The Board does not agree that the urge to preserve, and a sense of nostalgia, should jettison other planning objectives. To that extent, we do not find that the preservation of the buildings is as important as the preservation of the forms and façades." In other words, nostalgia is bad but façadism is okay.

The case for preservation of buildings on Spadina is difficult to make in a city

determined to increase its population by 50% as quickly as possible. With the new LRT line up the middle (imitating, in fact, the streetcar line of a century earlier), the development pressures are understandable, if not acceptable. Perhaps we should look to a brighter side: in the late 1960s, it was planned that Spadina Avenue, chosen for its unusual width, should be excavated to become a sunken, urban expressway. Had that plan been carried out, all those fine old buildings which remain would have disappeared concurrently, including even the street itself. If we take other historic centers as precedents, this implies that Spadina will one day have very special status, since highway planners seem to have an uncanny ability to select the most inappropriate urban locations.

The general public, meanwhile, seems indifferent both to the lack of protective legislation, and to the physical attributes of upper Spadina. This is the fundamental problem, and if the solution lies in persuasion, the problem must first be better understood. Rapid transportation and urban conservation seem inherently incompatible. We are all aware of this in terms of the lust for ever wider roads, but we do not think of this so much in terms the altered perception, or the diminished appreciation, which mecha-



Figure 4

nized transportation implies. Ruskin seemed to be aware of this, but that was a century and a half ago, and at the Ontario Municipal Board, Ruskin is not recognized as an expert witness.

To the driver, the space between home and office is something of a no-mans land, the commute the price to be paid for living in suburban Xanadu. In the hurly burly of our ever-worsening rush-hour traffic, all eyes wait upon the green light – while remaining also watchful for the depraved cyclist-courier weaving against the traffic flow, a tendency now shared by those on roller-blades. Technological advances, meanwhile, remove the driver from his surroundings. Air-conditioning distances one somewhat by requiring that the windows be closed. Tinted windows provide a further distance, an effect enhanced by the sunglasses necessary in a world with ever-thinner ozone layer. And there are

preoccupations within the car, the satellite navigation system, the CD changer and, of course, the mobile phone. So the commuter tends to be indifferent to the nuances of the heritage streetscape, and would be happy to see the whole damned mess removed in favour of wider streets and faster traffic flow. The truth is clear to the average driver – traffic congestion is caused by lack of roads, plain and simple.

What then of the pedestrian? The resident or visiting pedestrian, moving at a leisurely pace and with an eye vigilant for nuances of detail, must be the one to value the historic urban fabric. And yet, the Toronto pedestrian too is beset with distractions, not least among these the drivers, couriers and roller-bladers, individuals all bent on reaching their destinations as fast as possible, preferably with a good cardio-

vascular work-out on the way. The pedestrian has the insulating accoutrements of sunglasses and walkman, and is distracted too by the cell phone – whether shouting into it, or constantly texting or just watching for the next call. Another recent and surprisingly popular activity of the pedestrian is eating on the street. There seems to be the need to appease an insatiable appetite. The recent strike in Toronto by the garbage collectors (or dustmen, as they are quaintly known in Britain) revealed the nature of the fleeting pleasures of the pedestrian, this also with rather dire effect on the streetscape. In the end, there can only be so many brain cells left available to appreciate the surroundings and, as one who can scarcely walk and chew gum, it seems to me that these would be remarkably few.

In Toronto, multiculturalism is sometimes cited as a force contrary to preservation,

an attribution which might be considered naïve. The extent of this multiculturalism, however, is well-illustrated by upper Spadina Avenue. As I mentioned, the impressive commercial blocks were built in a typical Canadian Victorian style (using brick, stone, terra cotta and sheet metal) by a largely Anglo Saxon populace. Later the area became predominantly Jewish. Now it is largely Asian, and in particular, Chinese. A corner on Cecil Street tells the tale. The abutting lane is called Glasgow Street, with the sign written in English and Chinese (figure 4). Next to the sign is a cornerstone inscribed in Hebrew, on a building which was once a synagogue, but is now used as a Community Centre, primarily by the local Chinese community. This structure was originally built as a Methodist church, and after being a synagogue, it became a Chinese Catholic Church. Across the road on the south side of Cecil Street, Grossman's Tavern occupies a decaying Second Empire Mansion, now a jazz and blues bar, in Chinese ownership. Thirty years ago this was the meeting place for the grassroots "Stop Spadina" movement, which played a key role in stopping the proposed expressway. The building is now owned by one of the would-be develop-

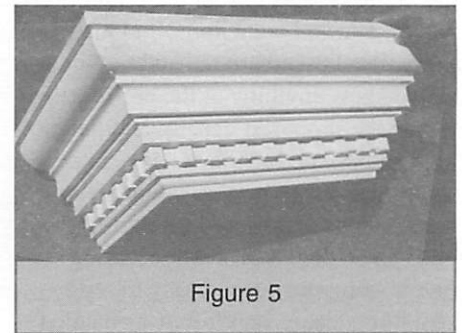


Figure 5

ers of this area. And directly across Spadina Avenue, on the west side, is the little gable which terminates Cecil Street.

For some years now, every time I looked or passed that way, I have delighted in the failing sheet-metal work and the slowly collapsing, central arch, always wondering how much longer these will survive. One recent morning, as I drove out along Cecil, I noticed a lift platform against the building, and I saw that the returns on the sheet metal cornice had

vanished. Returning later on foot, I looked around for the remnants without success until, snooping in the back lane, I found them stacked against a garbage bin. That night, under cover of darkness, I took the car and, when the coast was clear, stashed the artefacts and slipped off into the night. I stored my plunder in a friend's garage, anxious at least to document these, if nothing more.

Work on the gable continued and I watched with a mixture of anxiety and vexation. Alterations were taking place, but it wasn't clear what the nature of these was; and I was afraid to ask. An ally in the battle of Spadina was less reluctant than I and ventured to hear the worst. Her news, however, was surprising, and so I subsequently went to enquire myself. There I met a young black man seated on the wheel of the lift-platform truck, his eyes well-hidden by wrap-around reflector sunglasses. I gave him a copy of the relevant entry from the Spadina Inventory, reading out the specific reference to the gable, and I left him my phone number, asking that the boss, then high in the air, please give me a call. I thought he probably considered me to be a lunatic.

A few days later, the boss called me, a fellow with a sing-song accent, who turned out to be from Jamaica. He had been referred to the owner and had been asked to demolish the gable, but he had persuaded the owner otherwise. He had used the argument that it would (fortunately) be more expensive to demolish than to repair; and besides, the gable was a nice feature on the street and it would be a pity to remove it. He added that he was also going to restore the wooden, shop-front cornice, long hidden away in a crude plywood box. I asked about the dentilled cornice returns. They were initially to be reinstated, but this item had proved too costly and "there was no way the owner was going to pay for that."

Sensing a sympathetic individual, I admitted that I had retrieved the cornices from the garbage heap, and had taken them away for safe keeping. I knew a company which made such items and I

was willing to contribute part of the cost, if the contractor would agree to assist in reinstating these. He was happy to do so, though he again made it clear that the owner was most unwilling to spend any more money. The company which I had in mind was, in fact, the same company that did the metal roof on the Gunpowder Magazine at Fort York some years earlier. So I persuaded the company owner (in this case, from England) to come down, and I gave him a quick tour of the unappreciated architectural riches of the area, culminating in the now-denuded gable. He was most impressed by the elegance of the little cornice returns with their fine dentils, and in a fit of heritage enthusiasm, offered to make, and to install, these dentilled returns for an extremely reasonable price. After much co-ordination, and many hours of work, these are to be put back in place this very evening (Figure 5). A small, initial victory on upper Spadina, one which I hope will be appreciated by at least a few of the citizens.

Voluntary work with the ACO has had a curious and unexpected side effect, namely that it seems to produce actual work. The hastily-compiled Spadina inventory yielded paying projects of a similar nature, and lobbying for Fort York has had the same effect. It appears that my involvement in the ACO may have yet another effect, and this is where the powers of persuasion may come into play. For several years I have tried to get involved in the undergraduate architectural education, introducing concepts of conservation to the mainstream

programme. In this venture, as in the various heritage lobbying projects cited above, I have been almost totally unsuccessful, but my persistent activism has, it seems, caught the attention of a fellow board member who is a university professor.

The urban university of Ryerson Polytechnic has undergraduate courses in conservation, courses which have been criticized as being not sufficiently practical. The programme needs more projects in the so-called real world. Concurrently, protection of the buildings on Spadina Avenue requires an in-depth inventory, including historic research, measured drawings, photography and detailed descriptions. No volunteers have the time available to undertake this project, but the students, given sufficient instruction, could certainly do it. Getting the owners and occupants of Spadina Avenue to appreciate what is there also requires communication with a largely immigrant Chinese community; and a number of the students within the Ryerson programme are of Chinese descent, and speak Chinese. Could a combination of students, contractors, academics and heritage weenies sufficiently raise public awareness of, and subsequently protect, one of the unique and most splendid streets in the City of Toronto? The little gable at Cecil Street offers unexpected hope.

Nicholas Holman

Nick Holman works as a freelance architectural and heritage consultant in Toronto and is a member of ACO Council.

2003 ACO Conference & AGM

The 2003 Conference & AGM will be held April 11 to 13, 2003 in Walkerton. The theme will be Town Halls and Market Squares.

For more information check the ACO and South Bruce-Grey Branch Web sites at www.hips.com/ACO and www.bmts.com/~jubilee or call 416-367-8075 or 519-881-2826.

North Waterloo Region

Annual General Meeting

On a warm Tuesday evening in May, fragrant crabapple blossoms greeted members and friends approaching the entrance to the restored Freeport Church at Doon Heritage Crossroads, 10 Huron Road, Kitchener. In the sanctuary, President Marg Rowell welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and introduced our guest speakers from Doon Heritage Crossroads. Registrar/Researcher Elizabeth Hardin related the history of the Evangelical Brethren origins of the Freeport congregation, and Curator/



Freeport Evangelical Brethren Church, Doon Heritage Crossroads
Photo: Joyce Arndt

Manager Tom Reitz described the restoration of this historic place of worship during the past year.

Elizabeth Hardin identified a small evangelical denomination called the United Brethren in Christ, which had a following among some of Waterloo County's founding Pennsylvania German settlers. Freeport was a hamlet situated on the



Freeport Evangelical Brethren Church – interior. The prominent stovepipe extends the length of the sanctuary.

Photo: John Arndt

banks of the Grand River, mid-way between Berlin and Preston. (Today its address is King Street East, Kitchener, and Preston is a part of Cambridge.) The Freeport United Brethren congregation was one of several founded in Waterloo Township by a Reverend Downey from Ohio. In 1861 missionary evangelists built a white clapboard church at the roadside, which served both German and English speaking families in the area. Some years later, a number of United Brethren congregations affiliated with the Congregational Church, later to become part of the United Church of Canada in 1925. From then until 1962, this place of worship was known as Freeport United Church. The church was closed in 1962 and moved to Doon Heritage Crossroads, known then as Doon Pioneer Village. The Freeport Church was rededicated as an interdenominational church.

Tom Reitz pointed out that the goal of the project was to restore the clapboard church to the way it might have looked in 1914, in keeping with the era preserved in the rest of the village. Old photographs and interviews conducted by the project's architects proved most helpful. Of particular interest to ACO readers is that the restoration planning was begun by architect Nicholas Hill; unfortunately, his untimely death prevented him from witnessing the superb results.

The unique beauty of the sanctuary includes blue stencilled borders on the walls, faux oak-grain finish applied to pine woodwork, and kerosene lamps,

which, when lit at night, create an ambience of the past.

The structural work to the building presented some challenges: firming the foundation by removing the wooden plank floor and joists to install a steel support, restoring the ceiling in drywall, and reconfiguring the aisles to what was believed to be the original layout of two aisles and three banks of pews. A local company built new pews based on an old design.

The business of the Annual Meeting was held at the Curatorial Centre. The Certificate of Appreciation presented to Joye Krauel designated her as an Honorary Member of the Executive. For many years, Joye was involved in heritage issues in the community, with the branch and provincial ACO, and at one time represented the branch on the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, serving as chair.

Joyce Arndt

Windsor Region

Pointe-aux-Roches/St. Joachim Churches

The Save Our Sanctuaries (SOS) Committee is still working very hard to save these churches. Unfortunately, in August the spire of Eglise l'Annonciation in Pointe-aux-Roches was deemed unsafe. An order was given for its demolition and a one-day job turned into a four-day job! Seeing what happened to the spire has put more people on the side of the SOS committee. On October 6, a peaceful rally in front of Eglise St. Joachim was attended by about 400 supporters. As of this writing, the new bishop is standing behind Bishop Sherlock's decision.

Something positive to report in Lakeshore – the lighthouse at Lighthouse Cove in Lakeshore has been designated and the owners (the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority) have made an application for a

PreservationWorks! report on the proposed restoration. This is welcome news from the Town of Lakeshore.

Fourth Annual Photo Contest – “Windows”

Our contest was as popular as in previous years. 2002 saw the addition of a new category (digital) and some new sponsors. Sandra Wheaton won first, second and third places for her black and white photos of the Walker Power Building windows in Windsor. Honourable Mentions in the black and white category went to Shirley Brigden (Crown



One of the Windsor Doors Open sites (546 Devonshire Road)

Photo: Nancy Morand

Real Estate Office, Windsor), Michael Morand (Willistead Manor, Windsor), and Heather Nantais (Court Auditorium, Mackenzie Hall, Windsor). In the Colour category, we had first – Monica Purdon (Colasanti's Residence in Ruthven), second – Roxana Zegheru (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Windsor), third – Silvia Blasetig (Willistead Manor, Windsor); Honourable Mentions went to Shirley Brigden (Playdium Bowling Alley, Windsor), Silvia Blasetig (Mackenzie Hall, Windsor), and Catherine Harris (Old Barn, Essex County). Laurie Smith was the winner in the Digital category for her photo of the Walker Power Building, Windsor. All the photos were on display at the Common Ground Gallery in Mackenzie Hall for a week, ending with an awards reception at the gallery. They were also displayed at Vermouth's, a local watering hole, for a week in July.

We are very pleased to see the continued interest from the area's amateur photographers. Our thanks to Rina Guarascio and her committee for a job well done.

Doors Open Windsor

Windsor's first Doors Open event took place on October 5, with a reception for the property owners, volunteers and other “special” people on October 4 hosted by Hiram Walker & Sons Limited at their reception centre. Marjorie Mercer, Executive Director of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and ACO President Chis Borgal attended the reception and I had the honour of taking Marjorie around to some of the Doors Open sites – the Ford Power Plant, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, the Duff-Baby House and St. Peter's Maronite Church. In all, Windsor had 21 properties open on a wonderful sunny day. It was wonderful to see so many people wandering around the city, taking a really good look at our special properties, and to hear the pride in the owners/guides voices as they spoke about their properties. Thank you to the property owners for making this possible.

Hiram Walker's Building Now Open

Hiram Walker & Sons Limited opened their former Executive Office Building (circa 1894) to the public a couple of months ago, using it for tours, tastings and a gift shop. It is a fabulous building and a great addition to the “sights to see” in Windsor. The truly amazing thing is that the interior of the building is basically intact – somehow it was not messed up in a ‘50s, ‘60s or ‘70s “modernization.” It is a sight to behold and the tours are great. I was there three times in August, entertaining out of town friends.

Heritage Highlights

Eleven new vignettes are in the works for 2002. The subjects this year are: Jewish Heritage, Banks, Residential Designs of Albert Kahn, Works of Sheppard & Masson, Adaptive Reuse, The Detroit River, Border Masonic Temple, Duff-



Sandra Wheaton's first prize (black and white) photo of the Walker Power Building windows, Windsor



Monica Purdon's first prize (colour) photo of Colasanti's Residence, Ruthven, Ontario



Laurie Smith's first prize (digital) photo of the Walker Power Building, Windsor.



Chris Borgal, Marjorie Mercer and the Doors Open Windsor Committee: (from left to right) Mary Rodgers, Alena Sleziak, Nancy Morand, Darren Winger, and (seated) Pat Malicki and Ghislaine Brodeur.

Photo: Lou Ann Barnett, Dreams in Motion

Baby House, Mackenzie Hall, and the Sandwich Post Office. This has been a fabulous partnership between CBC-TV Windsor, the Windsor LACAC, and our branch. We are exploring the possibility, now that we will have 40 plus vignettes, of packaging them for sale, as well as putting together an educational package for the school boards.

Pat Malicki

London Region

Annual Geranium Walk Attracts Hundreds

Our twenty-ninth annual Geranium Walk, traditionally held on the first Sunday of June, proved to be immensely successful. Perfect weather blessed this year's walk organized by ACO Vice-President Shirley Gladwell and her Program Committee. Participants continued to explore the architecture typical of the inter-war years begun with the 2001 walk, but this year looked at the theme as it presented itself in a section of old north London. Using the guide designed by Cindy Evans, participants started from Robinson Memorial United Church and were treated to interior visits of several strik-

ing examples of homes of the era. These included a stunning Spanish Revival home on Victoria Street, an excellent Georgian Revival on Regent Street, a Craftsman cottage on Victoria Street, as well as several Tudor influenced homes that form the basis for a very attractive cul-de-sac on Clenray Place. The Clenray Place exteriors are still illuminated by the original

streetlamps from the 1930s.

Funding for the production of the walk guide was provided by a grant from the Museum and Heritage Coordinating Committee of the City of London. Additional advertising for the event was also provided, enabling organizers to promote the event more widely.

Fall Program

Following a summer planning workshop the branch conducted its first event of the Fall. Led by ACO members Marilyn Loft, Eila Milne, Jennifer Grainger and Shirley Gladwell, approximately 50 members of the community were taken on a walking tour of the Petersville/Blackfriars area of old west London. At the conclusion of the walk, participants were invited to return to Grosvenor Lodge to share in a reception designed to thank all of those who volunteered at the Geranium Walk and to promote our upcoming Fall Program.

In October, under the leadership of Julia Beck, the branch organized a bus tour to Mitchell in Perth County to observe late-nineteenth century architectural gems in that town. November will witness a workshop on stained glass restoration given by Lynette Richards at Grosvenor Lodge. And, in December, the branch

will host its Annual General Meeting at Waverley Mansion where members will have an opportunity to tour one of London's "great homes."

Doors Open London

October 5 and 6 witnessed London's first Doors Open event as part of the Ontario Heritage Foundation's Doors Open Ontario program. Organizers were delighted at the public response to the opening of 47 heritage related sites. Approximately 33,000 site visits were recorded by volunteers. During the event the public had opportunities to visit museums without charge, to go under the Fanshawe Dam, to hear classical music in the Aeolian Hall, to tour backstage at the Palace and Grand Theatres, to visit many university buildings, historic mansions, churches and chapels, to spend time in jail, and even to walk a heritage trail.

While the event was organized by a sub-committee of the Heritage and Museum Coordinating Committee under the leadership of London Ward 2 Councillor, Joni Baechler, the success of the weekend was due to the enthusiastic participation of the various site people who became wholeheartedly involved in the program. Planning has already begun to make next year's Doors Open London even bigger and better.

Updates

The City of London is marking the opening of its newly constructed arena in downtown London in October. The arena, for hockey and other events, has been built on the site of the old Talbot Block. In the 1980s this was the focus of community attention as ACO members and many others fought to retain the distinctive commercial streetscape. Unfortunately, that battle was lost. The only remaining portion of the block, the Talbot Hotel, did receive a heritage designation from the City, but was torn down in June 2001. On the northeastern corner of the new arena a façade of the former Talbot Hotel has been constructed. The London Advisory Committee on Heritage has requested the City

remove the heritage designation.

ACO London is still concerned with Locust Mount, a residence of a former industrialist and mayor of London and a building that is also architecturally important and part of the Talbot streetscape. Damaged by fire almost three years ago, its condition and what plans the owner has for it remain uncertain. The building has not been designated.

Don Menard

South Bruce-Grey

Busy, Busy, Busy

The past summer saw several issues come up in the area. In Walkerton, a homeowner was removing wallpaper from her living room and came across a mural on the plaster of all four walls. We were contacted to find out how she could get information on restoration of the work. This project is ongoing.

In late August a group from Kincardine contacted us about the old dance pavilion, which is the last standing pavilion along the Lake Huron shoreline. The building is slated for demolition by the town's water works department. We sent a letter to the September town council meeting. At this meeting the Save the Kincardine Pavilion Committee was given until October 17 to put together a plan for restoration and continuing maintenance of the pavilion. The Branch is helping in an advisory capacity and we hope the project will have a favourable conclusion.

In Harriston, the old hotel has been saved. A buyer was found after the town removed the porch. The new owner is doing considerable renovations to the building. In Lion's Head, on the other hand, the hotel is going to be demolished. This building, the oldest brick structure on the Bruce Peninsula north of Wiarton, is a major landmark.

During the summer the branch hired a student, who researched 30 historic properties in Brockton (i.e. the amalgamated municipality of Walkerton plus Brant and Greenock Townships). Justin developed a Web page of information, and we are hoping to have the municipality sponsor the page on the Internet. When this is done, it will be linked to the branch site at www.bmts.com/~jubilee.

Doors Open

Next spring, the branch will be a lead player in Brockton's Doors Open 2003. The committee has started to set up several sub-committees to work on this event, which will take place May 24, 2003. The theme is early industry and rural Ontario (farming, forestry and government), and will feature the rural hamlet of Cargill, the historical Greenock Swamp and the Town of Walkerton. In Cargill people will see a barn, the Cargill house (built by a nineteenth century industrialist), and the millpond, and will discover the sawmill history of the town. Unfortunately the last mill was taken down just this past August to make way for an electric power plant. In Walkerton, we are hoping to visit the county com-

plex, the Hampton Foundry, Victoria Jubilee Hall, several homes, and Bogdon & Gross, which is Bruce County's only pre-war furniture factory still in operation.

Victoria Jubilee Hall

Last March, thanks to funding from HRDC, we were able to hire a marketing coordinator. In August, our coordinator returned to university to do graduate work and a second person has been hired to finish off the marketing and business plan. Both employees have contributed to a more focussed strategy for the future direction of Victoria Jubilee Hall.

Phase III fundraising has begun, with the purpose of installing zoned heating and air conditioning in the hall. If funds are forthcoming, this phase of renovation should be finished by year's end.

Ticket sales for the 2002-2003 entertainment series have gone well. The first performance featured Nancy White on September 14. Bob Milne is to perform on October 5, with Ebony and Ivory in

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Only \$10.00 per ticket!
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Draw Date: December 15, 2002

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204-10 Adelaide East Street
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416-367-8075

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February and Buddy Wasisname and the Other Fellers in May. Christmas in the Hall features a CBC reading of "A Christmas Carol" on November 23, to raise funds for local charities, and the Ontario Ballet Theatre's production of The Nutcracker on November 30. On September 8, we had the dedication of a new garden, which is called the Jubilee Garden, both as a link with Victoria Jubilee Hall, and in honour of Queen Elizabeth's 50th Jubilee. It was also a celebration of the fifth anniversary of both the South Bruce-Grey Branch and its ownership of the Hall. The event went well, with the local MPP and several dignitaries attending, along with 75 to 100 others.

On September 14 Victoria Jubilee Hall was featured in a full-page spread in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record and in the Guelph Mercury. It helped us to see just how far we have come in five years!

Henry Simpson

Cobourg

Peter Smith

The Cobourg branch reports with sorrow the death of past president Peter Smith, who died in a sailing accident in July. Peter became president early in the history of the branch, when Doug Sifton was forced by illness to retire, and he quickly took on the role of champion of conservation in a town needing to be led. For three of our four years of existence, he represented Cobourg in the provincial councils of the ACO and superintended all of the initiatives of the local branch – such matters as the grants program for heritage buildings, the resistance to downtown murals and the long and losing struggle to save Whitehall. Board members will miss his gentle and moderating



Peter Smith

influence at meetings; the whole organization will be poorer for his loss.

Other news

ACO Cobourg has recently offered to finance the construction of a new walk in Victoria Park to be called "Ryerson Walk" in honour of Egerton Ryerson, who spent some years in Cobourg as principal of Victoria College. The walk would be directly aligned with College Street and provide a prospect north out of the park to the Victoria College building, which finishes the view three blocks away. The park will thus acquire a new central axis and a more satisfactory orientation. The town has agreed to the proposal and construction is expected to begin this fall.

Our grants program, providing up to \$1,000 in assistance to owners of designated houses or houses in designated historic districts, has completed its three-year trial period, and we are now considering whether to continue it and, if it does continue, how to improve it. Six worthy properties show its benefits.

The spring was made memorable for ACO Cobourg by its "Moveable Feast" in May, a fundraising event that sold 120 tickets at \$75 each, gave Cobourg an elegant night out, and netted somewhat more than \$7,000 after expenses. This rather startling success depended on the generosity and effort of a dozen hosts, who absorbed most of the costs and put themselves out to provide splendid dinners in fine surroundings. An extra incentive to ticket buyers was a prize of two weeks in the south of France – again, a donation by a very generous member. The "Moveable Feast" will certainly be repeated next spring and hopefully will become an annual event.

Bill Halewood

Port Hope

This has been an exciting year to date. Our board took on many projects during the first half of 2002. One project in particular has presented many philosophical challenges for our executive. As President of the Port Hope branch I am proud of our dedicated board and membership, all of whom work tirelessly for the preservation of our architectural and landscape heritage.

Here are the many projects we have been working on in 2002.

Lakeshore Road

With high density development slated for the area, Port Hope's historic Lakeshore Road has now come under enormous pressure. Plans call for the complete reconstruction of the roadway, leading to, in our board's opinion, the complete destruction of an important area of natural beauty. The board petitioned Port Hope's municipal council to have Lakeshore Road designated as a heritage road. We were successful at having the municipal government set up a heritage roads committee to investigate this suggestion further. Advisor Terry Foord has been selected by the town to represent our branch at the table.

Doors Open

On May 26 the Port Hope branch hosted our second annual Doors Open tour in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Twelve unique private and publicly owned buildings were opened to the public. Hundreds of people enjoyed a beautiful spring day touring the urban and rural areas of our municipality and learning about the history and architectural importance of some of our finest buildings.

House Tour

On October 5, 1500 people once again enjoyed the flawlessly organized Port Hope ACO House Tour. Chairperson

Penny Harris did a stellar job, especially given that she took over the position only this year. Volunteers and a hard-working committee ensured fine weather and a varied tour of local homes and buildings. The house tour has become a very important economic stimulus for local businesses and services over the past few years and they welcome the Saturday before Thanksgiving with open arms.

New Scholarship Fund

During the ACO conference in Perth in April, past president Sue Stickley and I were quite taken with the display set up by the Algonquin College Heritage Institute. That weekend, the idea of offering a scholarship to local students, interested in making heritage restoration a career choice, was born. We are pleased to announce that on September 19 a news conference was held for members of the local press, educators and other interested parties to introduce the highlights of this scholarship fund. We are also proud that we already have a list of interested candidates for 2003. My thanks to board members Sue Stickley, Ann Riddell and Mary Trevor who took on this exciting project and saw it through to fruition.

Proposal to Save House

In September, the municipality informed vice-president Peter Rumgay that a white clapboard house, circa 1860, owned by the town and located at the edge of Union Cemetery was slated for demolition. The house had been rented out to residential tenants in the past but, with up to \$20,000 in necessary repairs required, the decision was made to take the building down. We recently advised the Town in writing that the Port Hope branch would agree to re-roof the entire building, remove the aluminum siding, restore, prime and repaint the clapboard in heritage colours complimentary to those used on the cemetery chapel next door, all in return for a 15 year lease at one dollar a year. The house would then be used as a meeting and office facility for local heritage and historical organizations. The Town seems very receptive to this proposal.

Stevenson Block

On an alarming note, the Capitol Theatre Foundation has asked Port Hope LACAC to de-designate the Stevenson Block (circa 1870) to make way for a new theatre reception area and tourist information centre. The branch last fall donated \$50,000 in principle to the restoration of that building and were asked by the Theatre Foundation to consider allowing that offer to stand. A motion was passed by the ACO board in October stating that: "After careful consideration and in keeping with the mandate of the ACO, the board of directors of the Port Hope Branch of the ACO cannot support the demolition of the designated façade of the Stevenson Block. The Port Hope Branch of the ACO will contribute \$50,000 over three years to assist in the restoration of the designated façade of the Stevenson Block should your board agree to its restoration as opposed to its demolition." We all hope that this project comes to a conclusion that allows the façade of the building to remain standing.

Other news

The restoration and maintenance of the historic Port Hope VIA rail station remains an on-going project of our board and we will continue to make a significant financial contribution towards its upkeep in the year 2002-03.

The Wesleyville Village Heritage Landscape study has been drafted and is under review. The study was supported by our branch.

The memorial band shell in Central Park has been completely repainted and restored to its former glory after the Port Hope ACO agreed to fund the project. It is heartwarming to see this structure become an integral part of the downtown entertainment scene.

We were flattered that TVO recently selected Port Hope as having the best-preserved main street in Ontario. The one-hour program did a great deal to show Ontarians the value of architectural preservation.

Our Fall lecture series was kicked off on September 18 with a fascinating presentation on nineteenth and early twentieth century interior trim by George Duncan, author of *York County Mouldings*. His presentation followed the announcement of our scholarship program for heritage carpentry and millwork or masonry at Algonquin College and fitted perfectly with celebration of craftsmanship of the past. The hands-on lecture captivated the 30 or so audience members. The next lecture in the series is a slide presentation featuring the Island of Malta by the ever popular local photographer Daphne Svenningson. Wrapping up the series will be a Restoration Tips presentation by our talented and dedicated vice-president, Peter Rumgay.

Blake Holton

Changes to Ontario Heritage Act!

The Government of Ontario has introduced legislation that would make a number of significant amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Included in a Government Efficiency (omnibus) bill introduced on September 25, 2002 and expected to be passed shortly, the package of amendments would be the first significant changes to the Act since it came into effect in 1975.

The bill includes the following changes.

Changes to Parts IV and V

- Local architectural conservation advisory committees (LACACs) will be renamed municipal heritage committees.
- A municipal council will be able to expand the mandate of its municipal heritage committee, so that the committee may advise the council not only on matters relating to Parts IV and V of the Act, as is currently the case, but also on other heritage matters that the council may specify by by-law.
- In addition to the register municipalities

are already required to keep listing properties designated under Part IV of the Act, municipalities will be required to keep a register listing heritage conservation districts designated under Part V of the Act. Similarly, in addition to entering in its register properties designated under Part IV or VI of the Act, the Ontario Heritage Foundation will be required to enter heritage conservation districts designated under Part V of the Act.

- Under Part IV of the Act, municipalities will designate property as having cultural heritage value or interest, rather than historic or architectural value or interest, to reflect the current practice of viewing heritage holistically and not merely in terms of buildings and districts.
- For new designations, a description of the heritage attributes of the property must be included with the reason for the designation in the notice of intention to designate the property and in the register of designated properties kept by the clerk of the municipality. Any alteration of a designated property that is likely to affect its heritage attributes requires the consent of the municipal council.
- Previously, if a municipal council refused an application for consent to the demolition or removal of a building on a designated property, the owner was prohibited from demolishing or removing the building unless 180 days had elapsed from the date of the council's decision. Now, the owner will be prohibited from demolishing or removing the building unless the 180 days have elapsed *and* the owner has obtained a building permit to erect a new building on the site.
- The owner will be required to substantially complete the new building within two years after commencing the demolition or removal of the old building, unless the municipal council relieves the owner from the requirement or extends the time. An owner who is not relieved from the requirement or who wishes a further extension of time may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board. A similar scheme will apply if a municipi-

pal council refuses an application for a permit for the demolition or removal of a building in a heritage conservation district.

- The bill repeals all the special municipal statutes which deal with the demolition of properties designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, since the scheme introduced in those statutes will now apply province-wide.
- When designating a heritage conservation district under Part V of the Act, a municipal council will be allowed to include properties previously designated as having cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Act. Properties designated under Part IV and included in a heritage conservation district will be subject only to Part IV.
- The approval of the Ontario Municipal Board will no longer be required for a municipal by-law designating a heritage conservation district, if no objections to the by-law are made within 30 days after notice of the by-law is published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality. A person who objects to the by-law will have the right, within the 30-day period, to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board, which may dismiss the appeal, repeal or amend the by-law or direct the municipal council to repeal or amend the by-law.

Changes to Part VI (Archaeology)

- A licence under Part VI of the Act will be required for archaeological fieldwork; for an alteration of an archaeological site, including a marine archaeological site; and for the removal of an artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from an archaeological site, including a marine archaeological site. However, a licence will not be required if the activity can be classified as normal agricultural work or the routine maintenance of property or if the site or activity is prescribed by the regulations. The terms "archaeological fieldwork," "archaeological site," "artifact" and "marine archaeological site" are to be defined in the regulations.
- Only individuals will be allowed to

apply for a licence under Part VI of the Act.

- The requirements that an applicant for a licence must currently meet are competency to conduct archaeological fieldwork in a responsible manner and past conduct that does not afford reasonable grounds for the belief that the archaeological fieldwork will not be carried out in accordance with the law. To these will be added the requirement that the activities proposed by the applicant be consistent with the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario. In addition, the Lieutenant Governor in Council will have the power to make regulations prescribing requirements for the issuance of a licence or a class of licence.
- The onus will be on the applicant for a licence to prove that he or she is qualified, rather than on the Minister to prove that the applicant is not qualified.
- The Minister will be allowed to issue a licence for a fixed term or an indefinite term.

Changes to Offences Provisions

- The maximum penalty that may be imposed will be increased to \$1,000,000 for conviction of the offence of demolishing or removing a building or structure in contravention of the Act and the offence of failing to construct a building on the demolition site within the required time period in contravention of the Act.
- The Minister's consent to the prosecution of offences will no longer be required.
- Currently, if a property designated under Part IV is illegally altered, the municipal council may restore the property as nearly as possible to its previous condition and may recover the cost of such restoration from the owner of the designated property. This right to restore and recover the restoration cost will be extended to property in a heritage conservation district designated under Part V.

2002 Heritage Canada Conference

According to a recent poll by Tourism Canada, 33 per cent of visitors to Canada visit cultural and heritage sites. It was, therefore, very fitting that this year's Heritage Canada conference in Halifax should focus on *Heritage Tourism*. I was pleased to be able to represent the ACO at this year's conference, as my parents lived in Halifax from 1942 to 1945 (my father was in the Navy).

Early registration was on September 26 and I took advantage of the "Cultural Diversity" tour that afternoon. This tour highlighted many of the heritage churches and residences in the Brunswick Street Conservation Area. The tour started at the Little Dutch Church (1756), a national historic site, and continued on to St. George's Anglican Church, which has been completely restored since the fire a few years ago. Along the way, we were able to see a variety of Georgian cottages and Victorian houses. The opening reception that evening was held at the historic Halifax City Hall (1888) on the Grand Parade. As always, the opening reception was a great time to catch up with acquaintances and colleagues.

The Friday program was opened with a keynote address by Roger Wheelock, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of the Canadian Tourism Commission. He was followed by sessions on "Built Heritage Places and Heritage Tourism," "The Business of Heritage Tourism," "Heritage Tourism in the U.S.A.," and "New Trends and Issues in Heritage Tourism." Lunch was hosted by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Province of Nova Scotia. From my point of view, "The Business of Heritage Tourism" and "Heritage Tourism in the U.S.A." were the most informative and productive sessions. Lynne Perry spoke about the Lighthouse Product Club, something we in Ontario should be taking a good look at, and Amy Webb explained how the National Trust plays an



Heritage Canada Conference participants tour Lunenburg
(can you spot Pat Malicki?)

Photo: Joseph Robichaud Photography

active role in the development, training and marketing of heritage tourism.

Friday evening, we all attended the awards ceremony at Pier 21 (Canada's Ellis Island). Pier 21 was opened as an interpretive centre on July 1, 1999, and I have to say that the volunteers that worked on this project have done an absolutely fabulous job. Rather than take the quick tour that evening, I elected to go back on Sunday, on my own time, and am glad I did so. The stories of the immigrants who passed through Pier 21 over a 40-year period were fascinating. The Resource Centre at Pier 21 is available to anyone who is trying to piece together their family history.

Saturday morning, we headed for Lunenburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Did you know that the only two World Heritage Sites in North America are both in Canada? Do you know what the other one is? (Answer: ????) Our tour started at the Lunenburg Academy, which still operates as an elementary school, and continued on through the town. The ladies of St. John's Church (destroyed by fire on November 1, 2001) served the most amazing seafood chowder and fruit pies. Tours of the restoration efforts were available and the parishioners of St. John's are to be com-

mended for their efforts. In response to a request, a spontaneous tour of the Bluenose II was arranged. The people of Lunenburg are justifiably proud of their town and its history.

The conference activities concluded Saturday evening with a dinner in the barracks at the Halifax Citadel.

As always, conferences such as this are a combination of information and networking. I find it very helpful to be able to talk to others who are doing the same work that we are. A bonus this year was meeting Dr. Atsuyuki Okazaki, an Associate Professor of City Planning and Historic Preservation in the Department of Architecture at Niigata University in Japan. As a result of our meeting in Halifax, I was able to arrange for him to visit the ACO office and meet with one of our executive members while he was in Toronto. Dr. Okazaki had learned about the ACO while searching "the Web."

The 2002 conference organizers did a great job. Everyone I met in Halifax and area was friendly and helpful. Thank you for your hospitality. Heritage Canada's next conference will be held in Winnipeg in 2003.

Pat Malicki

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